



## Agenda

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:00am Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board Meeting

Teleconference Call in Conference No: 1 (800) 315 - 6338, Access code 54784

**Teleconference guidelines:** Please mute your phone unless you are speaking. When speaking, state your name first. Soon after the meeting, be ready to receive a copy of the draft minutes to review and provide input within a short period of time. Thanks.

**Public Comment:** Public comment will be accepted during the first 15 minutes of the meeting. Please state your name and location before commenting. Thank you.

### 1. Attendance

Att	Type	First	Last	Location/Title	Representing
X	Member	Gordon	Glaser	Anchorage	Alaska Commission on Aging Designee
X	Member, Ch	Rosemary	Hagevig	Douglas	Public
X	Member	Phil	Hokenson	Fairbanks	Alaska Veterans Advisory Council Designee
X	Member	Bob	Pawlowski	Anchorage	Public
	Member	Jana	Shockman	Anchorage	Public
X	Member	Ronald	Siebels	Anchorage	Public/Restricted/Veterans representative
X	Member	Gordon	Severson	Anchorage	Public
X	Member	Brenda	Shelden	Wasilla	Public
X	Division	Clinton	Lasley	Director	Central Office
X	Division	Tina	Cochran	Adm Ops Mgr	Central Office
X	Division	Emily	Palmer	Soc Svcs Pr Coord	Central Office
X	Division	Megan	Bauman	Admin Assist I	Central Office

### 2. Call to Order

A. Meeting start time: 9:02am, 5/17/2019

### 3. Discussion and approval of minutes from previous meeting.

A. Ron S. move to approve, Gordon S. second. No objections, minutes approved.

### 4. Declaration and verification of any conflicts of interest.

A. None identified.

### 5. Public Comment

A. None.

### 6. Unfinished/Old Business

A. None.

### 7. New Business

A. None.

### 8. Reports

A. Division Director's Report – Clinton L

- i. HB/SB 96 update – After good conversation and public comment was heard in various committees in the House, HB96 was passed and sent to the Senate. However, the



Senate adjourned for the year before it could be heard. It is not known whether SB 96 will be brought up next year as the outcome of the current AKPH regulation package may influence that situation.

- a. Gordon G. - The Anchorage Pioneer Home (APH) resident board lost some of its members over the regulation package; this is not an easy situation to figure out.
  - 1) Clinton- APH had seven residents move out before the final outcome of the regulation package. Some wanted to travel instead, others moved out of state, and one moved to a different facility. Some were fearful that they would not be able to afford the new rates – which was difficult for me to hear, as that is not an actual situation as our AKPH Payment Assistance program will still continue to cover anyone and everyone who can't afford the full rate (either current or proposed).
- ii. Regulation package & public comments update – The regulation package process is open through June, with the public hearing on May 28, 2019 from 1 – 4pm. Every home will be set up to accommodate in-person and call-in participants. GCI is contracted to record the meeting and 100 phone lines will be available for call-ins. Everyone who wants to speak must be signed up by 2:30pm on May 28<sup>th</sup>. I will attend the hearing in person at the Anchorage Pioneer Home. If board members are talking with a concerned citizen, please notify them that until the comment period is over on June 30<sup>th</sup>, we are not allowed (by law) to respond directly to any comments they send into us. According to the regulation process, after comment period closes on June 30<sup>th</sup>, we will issue a final response that addresses all comments received. In the meantime, please assure them we are NOT ignoring them but are abiding by the rules of the required process.
  - a. Rosemary H – Would it be helpful for the board members to attend the public hearing in person at one of the homes?
    - 1) Clinton L – Yes, Elders and their families need to be heard. If available board members can come and help elders and their families feel welcome that would be great. The last thing we want is for our elders to feel scared or that they aren't being heard.
    - 2) Gordon G. and Gordon S. to attend APH, Ron S. to attend AVPH, Rosemary H. to attend JPH and Gordon G. to ask prior Pioneer Home Advisory Board chair, Bob Sivertsen, to attend KPH on the board's behalf.
  - b. Bob P. – Clinton, do you feel comfortable that the public comment process requirement has been met according to Alaska State statute?
    - 1) Clinton L. – Yes, we are following the step-by-step guide given to us by the State of Alaska Department of Law. Please send me the specific statute that you are concerned about.
- iii. RFP update – We were issued a Legislative Intent action item several years ago that required us to look into potential cost savings by contracting out hospitality services at the other 5 homes (to match JPH, which was set-up that way when it opened 30 years ago). We issued an RFI (Request for Information) for contractors to provide general cost information on such a project. We received responses that proved notable cost savings would be evident. We then issued an RFP (Request for Proposal) for contractors to provide us with a draft proposal; the RFP has closed and DHSS Grants and Contracts is reviewing the received proposal. If Grants and Contracts confirms that the contractor meets the state's requirements, a notice of award will be issued. RFP requirements



included the contractor needing to do a "phased in" approach for transitioning the homes one at a time and the intent is for the contractor to take on the state employees currently filling those hospitality positions. LTC contract rules state the contractor must pay employees the same amount + \$2.50 extra in lieu of benefits.

- iv. Agnew Beck recommendations implementation status – The study laid out 5 priorities, one of those being maintaining a 95% occupancy rate at each home. We began implementing the 95% occupancy process last year and our FY20 budget is based on this. Increasing the occupancy rate helps to address a major budget issue AKPH has long had – not earning all of our authority. The homes have been working extremely hard to achieve this and are very close, but it is difficult due to the trend of increased elder deaths in winter and the seven elders who moved out due to the regulation package. Another priority in process is the complex behavior neighborhood at APH. Upon establishment of that neighborhood, we will assess whether it is possible to do the same at other homes. Another priority was finishing certification of 14 beds at AVPH as VA Skilled Nursing. This has been a long, difficult process but is almost done. We failed the initial inspection a month ago and completed corrected action, but essentially failed the second/re-inspection as a whole new VA team was sent, who found entirely different inspections issues than the first team. VA gave an additional 10 days to complete correction action which we have done, and we received a letter of intent from VA that we should receive the skilled nursing certification. We also recently received notification that we must reimburse \$40,000 for the VA domiciliary rate received from 2/11 – 5/14. It turns out we were missing a document that no one knew about (we are the first facility in the state to seek this certification so this is new to VA and AKPH alike). While we will lose that \$40,000 we will still have 6 weeks to bill at the higher VA skilled nursing rate so it should come out even.
  - a. Phil H – I spoke with the Associate Director of VA Health Care Services and asked whether it would be possible to seek an exemption from the 75% veteran resident requirement (due to the minimum number of veterans at the other five homes), to allow the other 5 homes to be recognized as veterans home (but not to the same skilled nursing degree). He said that might be a possibility – do you think it's worth pursuing?
  - b. Clinton – That is good information to know. The Department and AKPH will be reviewing the long range vision for the Pioneer Homes over the summer, and that information may become applicable. Most of the homes require facility upgrades, and even more would be needed to meet VA requirements – we would need to assess whether other funding would be available to do so.
  - c. Bob P – I spoke with the DHSS Deputy Commissioner to figure out whether an endowment could be done to keep the Pioneer Homes running. It is a good question worth pursuing.
- v. APH Complex Behavior Neighborhood update – The submission to re-class the South building of the Anchorage Pioneer Home was officially submitted to the City of Anchorage. After numerous meetings with the city (including Legal and Facilities), they believe an I-1 zoning is achievable, which should meet the needs for the complex behavior neighborhood. The I-1 zoning would be for the entire building but the complex behavior neighborhood would only take up 1/3 of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.



- a. Bob P – As an FYI, I was with the Mayor of Anchorage yesterday and he knows nothing of this project. I would recommend Clinton asking Anchorage's Planning and Zoning folks to brief him.
- b. Gordon G – Zoning decisions are subject to assembly approval so it is important that we make sure all bases are covered.
- c. Clinton L – DHSS Facilities is leading this project, they have been in contact with the Mayor's office but I will reach out to them to make sure someone briefs the Mayor if he doesn't already know.

B. Administrative Operation Manager's Budget Report, Budget updates - Clinton L./Tina C.

- i. Budget update – We have stayed within the budget this year and are not anticipating a deficit. We have spread out \$300,000 across the homes to purchase large, necessary items that they were previously denied due to budget shortfalls. We are working on setting aside more money for the complex behavior neighborhood, as there have been unanticipated costs to capital budget funds. For the FY20 budget we are still \$5M short of our operating budget. We have had multiple conversations with the Assistant Commissioner regarding it, and the administration's approach will be to ask for a supplemental budget (an approach we do not like). As part of the Medicaid Reform, we may be getting a 5% reduction in what we collect as we will bill like a provider – which will be a \$300,000 loss.
  - a. Clinton L – To confirm, after exhaustive research based on a misconception by a legislator, all of the services that the Alaska Pioneer Homes provide are within the assisted living scope and we are within our regulatory authority. However, while our staffing ratios are good, we will be reassessing our staffing structure as we have held over a structure that is too heavy in nurses (from a time when we were certified as a nursing home).
  - b. Clinton L – Currently in statute, elders on the AKPH Payment Assistance program are allowed to keep \$200 a month for personal needs; the House has considered raising this to \$500.
  - c. Rosemary H – The final vote on HP96 showed an extraordinary amount of support for the Alaska Pioneer Homes. However, there is still a lot of confusion out there which can create problems.

C. Alaska Veterans Advisory Council Report- Phil H.

- i. A Benefits Assistance Service team from the VA Washington D.C. office is coming to Alaska and will host a claims clinic. One of the clinic locations will be at AVPH on June 9 & 10. They will help veterans file claims and applications for any and all veterans benefits – including VA Aide & Assistance. It will be worth it to see whether the VA Aid & Attendance program can help any of the veterans across the six homes.
- ii. Clinton – All of the work Phil has done investigating the VA Aide & Attendance program is much appreciated. We are working to identify a veteran elder who may qualify and see if we can get them approved. If that works (and doesn't impact them continuing to receive other types of assistance), then we will work on getting other veterans approved across the homes. We will see if we can get the potential candidate we've identified out to the June 9/10 event to apply for Aide & Assistance.

D. Board Chairman's Report – Rosemary H.



- i. As part of the Commission on Aging board, we have worked to update the state plan and have submitted it for federal funding. What is the status of the AVPH roof project?
- ii. Clinton – The application for the grant was filed but it may take awhile to hear back.

9. Chair's request for comments:

- A. Gordon G.: Commission on Aging has been working on the Senior Benefits program but still need to look at some of the funding formulas. We are concerned with the Medicaid Reform and are working to push back on those cuts as it will have a large impact on the number of available beds across the state. In regards to the budget cuts as a whole, it seems that the aging community fared well compared to other groups.
- B. Bob: None.
- C. Gordon S.: None.
- D. Jana: Not present.
- E. Ron: None.
- F. Phil: None.
- G. Brenda: None.

10. Review of meeting action items – Megan B.

- A. Gordon G. – To ask Bob Siversten to attend the May 28<sup>th</sup> public hearing at KPH on the board's behalf.
- B. Bob P. – To send Clinton a specific Alaska state statute on public regulation process requirements for review.
- C. Clinton L – Contact DHSS Facilities to ensure Anchorage Mayor is aware of APH's complex behavior zoning submission.
- D. Emily P – Investigate whether the APH veteran can get out to the AVPH claims clinic on June 9/10 for VA Aid & Attendance sign up.

11. Chair's Closing statement – Rosemary H.

- A. None.

12. Adjourn

- A. Motion to adjourn by Gordon S., seconded by Ron S.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 10:15am

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